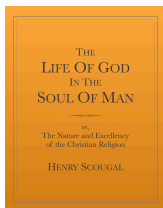


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

April 23rd, 2017

“I will extol thee, O LORD; for
thou hast lifted me up, and
hast not made my foes to
rejoice over me.”

(PSALM 30:1)



New on our bookshelf... Henry Scougal's
The Life Of God In The Soul Of Man

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us

Do you want a printed copy? Just ask.

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

WEBSITE

www.sovereigngracechurch.us

ADDRESS

23033 Hughey Lane
New Caney, Texas 77357

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 2160 77357

PHONE

(832) 543 5333

April 23rd, 2017

Schedule of Services

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Happy Birthday!

Tyler Richards—23rd, Alyson Murphy—25th

This evening's podcast will be from our PASTOR

ROMANS 3:24 — JUSTIFIED FREELY

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

***Our featured sermon is made available every Sunday at 6:00 PM**

ONE BAPTISM

"FOR BY ONE SPIRIT ARE WE ALL BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY, WHETHER WE BE JEWS OR GENTILES, WHETHER WE BE BOND OR FREE; AND HAVE BEEN ALL MADE TO DRINK INTO ONE SPIRIT." (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13)

Beloved, the effectual reality of being baptized into Christ, by the Holy Spirit, testifies to our being delivered from the condemnation of *all* our sins. Not only are we delivered from the condemnation of being found in our sin, having been made *blameless by the blood* of Christ; additionally, the reality of our baptism into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, testifies to our being made *holy through His righteousness*. Accepted in the beloved Son of God, through the death of His sin atoning *blood*, we have been made *blameless*, and through the life of His perfect *righteousness*, we have been made *holy*! For our Heavenly Father *hath chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved* (EPHESIANS 1:3-6).

The unseen reality of our being baptized into Christ, by the Holy Spirit, is the substance of the *redemption* and *righteousness* we both *hope for* and *have in* Him. Indeed, the evidence of this unseen reality is the faith that saves us, the faith that is not of ourselves, but rather very blessedly the perfect substitutionary faith of the only man to have ever pleased God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *For by grace are we saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: it is the gift of God.* (EPHESIANS 2:8-10)

Friend, if you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you will confess Him in the waters of baptism, and that; not to become a believer, but because you are a believer! Favored of the Lord you have been made a believer, *through the faith of the operation of God* (COLOSSIANS 2:12).

Beloved, because our Lord is risen indeed, you will not answer your heavenly Father for the *bad conscience* of the *guilty man* of your flesh, rather very blessedly through the *good conscience* of the new *innocent man* formed in you by His Spirit, Christ our sure hope of glory! Because He is risen, because He is accepted, we shall be saved! [1 PETER 3:21]

Has our heavenly Father let you hear his beloved Son? He declares "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*" (MARK 16:16). What a blessed testimony water baptism is, for it testifies and points to the reality that indeed, Christ is your answer of a *good conscience* toward our heavenly Father. A *good conscience* wrought by the *blood* and *righteousness* of Christ. Water baptism is a blessed confession made toward our Heavenly Father, that you in truth believe on the One he hath sent; indeed that you have been made to know Him by that light He shines in the hearts of His people, *the light of the knowledge of the glory of Himself in the face of Jesus Christ*, His beloved Son (2 CORINTHIANS 4:6, JOHN 6:29).

So what is hindering you to be baptized? Nothing! if you can say, by God's free, sovereign, and undeserved grace, "*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*" May the Son be pleased to send to you the Comforter and baptize you by the One Spirit, His people are *made to drink*; through the waters (the Word) of the testimony of Christ. May God give you *grace to believe—He shall save His people from their sins; grace to believe*, that He has saved you from your sins. AMEN! (MARK 16:16, ACTS 8:37, MATTHEW 1:21, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13)

“A man who knows that he is saved by believing in Christ does not, when he is baptized, lift his baptism into a saving ordinance. In fact, he is the very best protester against that mistake, because he holds that he has no right to be baptized until he is saved.” — **CHARLES SPURGEON**

~

DO YOU BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART?

“...AS THEY WENT ON THEIR WAY, THEY CAME UNTO A CERTAIN WATER: AND THE EUNUCH SAID, SEE, HERE IS WATER; WHAT DOETH HINDER ME TO BE BAPTIZED? AND PHILIP SAID, IF THOU BELIEVEST WITH ALL THINE HEART, THOU MAYEST. AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID, I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.”

(ACTS 8:36-37)

Baptism is an essential part of our public profession of the faith of the gospel. By baptism we confess our union with Christ, and confidence in him as our representative before God - *“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”* In baptism we acknowledge our sin and its just punishment, and we testify of our faith in Christ’s substitutionary death to put away sin — *“Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”* And we confess our faith in the resurrection of Christ, and our spiritual resurrection by his power in our baptism — *“We were buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”* *“Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”* (ROMANS 6:3, COLOSSIANS 2:12, ROMANS 6:4)

Do you believe with all your heart? If so, then you ought to follow the Lord in believer’s baptism. Secret disciples, like Joseph and Nicodemus, must always be suspect disciples. Children of God, let us remind ourselves continually of our public profession in baptism. Are we indeed crucified with Christ? Let us, then, count the world as a dead thing to us. Are we indeed risen with Christ? Let us, then, walk in the newness of life.

Excerpt taken from the article **Who Should Be Baptized?**

PASTOR **DON FORTNER**